Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled).

19. (New) A method of operating a router in a communication network, said router having a plurality of interfaces to at least one connection-oriented non-broadcast multiple access network, said method comprising the steps of:

assigning a number to each of the interfaces;

grouping the interfaces into connectivity classes;

encoding information identifying the interfaces and the connectivity classes into a link state packet; and

transmitting the link state packet to other routers in the communication network.

20. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the link state packet is an OSPF link state advertisement.

21. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the information identifying the interfaces and the connectivity classes is encoded into opaque fields of the link state packet.

22. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the non-broadcast multiple access network is an ATM network.